

Friends
of Bransby Horses 



Exclusive
2021 Review

We feel it is so important to continue to say thank you to you, as you have continued to support us during what has been a very unpredictable two years. Over the last 12 months, we're delighted to see that our Friends of Bransby Horses membership family has now grown to 650 wonderful members and during 2021, your contributions alone have raised over £35,128!* Not forgetting all of your generous donations aside from your membership too, which have raised over £79,645* so far this year.

Through your financial support you have made a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules providing them with a much deserved second chance in life. Some of those that you have helped, such as Sansa, Lyanna and Phantom, are featured within this update. Also inside you will read your exclusive update from our site at Barlings and an insight in to the day to day working of our new vet laboratory facility.

Finally, just a quick reminder that our winter sale starts on Boxing Day and you can order discounted products online through our website. The team here wishes you a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to a prosperous New Year for us all.

*Figures correct as of October 2021

*The team here wishes you a wonderful Christmas
and we look forward to a prosperous New Year for us all.*

*Thank you so much for
your support. Without you,
we simply couldn't do what
we do.
Warm Regards, Lauren.*

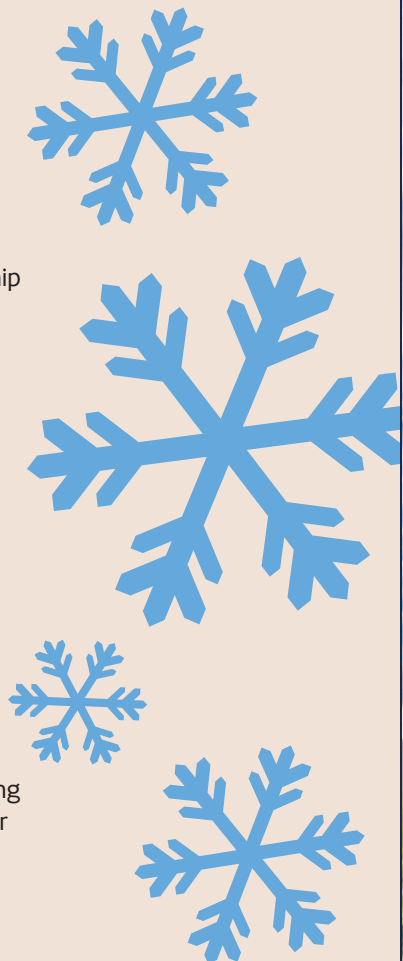
*Thank you so much
for your continued
support. It means the
world to us.
With love,
Hannah.*

*Your support is really
appreciated
Thank you
Irish Volunteer.*

*Your support is just incredible
thank you for believing in
us!
Best Wishes
Paige*

*We are so grateful
to you, thank you,
Kissey*

*Your continued support is
greatly appreciated.
Best Wishes.
Sally.*



Sansa and Lyanna have definitely been the superstars during 2021. We first introduced you to Sansa in February when she'd only been at Bransby Horses for a few months. We then followed her story to when Lyanna, whose name was chosen by our wonderful Friends of Bransby members, was born in March. And, of course, we continued to follow Lyanna throughout her first year as she's grown and got more and more sassy!

We've seen Lyanna wear her first head collar, have her feet trimmed for the first time, as well as being weaned from her Mum to join her new friends in her first big grown up herd. We're so delighted that we'll be continuing to follow Lyanna next year as she fast approaches her first birthday!

The Main Yard team have shared with us a recent update: "We're pleased to say that Lyanna was an absolute super star to wean. She led perfectly away from Sansa up to her new home, a field further away from the yard, where she joined a group of young cobs. Although it took her a little while to settle in she is now the boss... no surprises there! Sansa is enjoying the peace and quiet of not having little ones demanding everything from her."

BEAUTIFUL *Barlings*



41
The number of horses that are currently living at Barlings (correct October 2021).

You may recall that previously we have spoken about our second site over at Barlings. We purchased the 800-acre site in late 2018 as a development opportunity.

However, our long term plans were cut very short at the end of 2019 when we suffered the devastating floods, causing us to lose 40% of our land in a matter of hours. Very quickly we had to develop our Barlings site with shelters, fencing and other equipment to house some of the horses who needed somewhere safe and dry to live.

In last year's Review, we were able to celebrate some of the successes the Barlings site had in its first year and this year we want to continue that celebration. Although you may not be able to visit Barlings (it is not open to the public), hopefully we can bring a little slice of Barlings to you instead!

The site is home to a wealth of wildlife, a lot more than just our horses. The site is located in a small village, away from main roads and

doesn't have many buildings or visitors on it. As well as this, it has many small areas of trees, hedgerows, undergrowth and, not forgetting, the lake which makes it the perfect home for many different species. Some examples of our resident wildlife are deer, badgers, hares, otters, different species of birds (including a family of swans, geese and ducks), as well as insects such as butterflies, bees and dragonflies.

Paul, Assistant Estates Manager, tells us about the family of swans: "Barlings has a resident pair of mute swans which the yard team have named Bruce and Betty. "In the last three years, they've managed to successfully raise six young. Raising three in 2019 and the same again in 2020. Unfortunately, 2021 wasn't to be their year. After several attempts at building a nest they finally hatched six, all of which they sadly lost. It seems to be a cruel world after all the effort they put in. Maybe next year they will have more success. It's wonderful to be able to work in such beautiful surroundings, to enjoy the wildlife at the same time as doing a job that makes such a difference."

The dedicated team who are based at Barlings work hard to provide each of the horses they look after with a bespoke handling programme to give them the best chance of finding their 'Perfect Partner', through our rehoming scheme.

One of the wonderful things about the site is the vast amount of space, meaning there are many acres of fields for our horses to enjoy. However, for those horses who are carrying a few extra pounds, we have a track system that involves fencing of sections around the edge of a field to encourage the horses and ponies to walk further whilst grazing. Research shows that by encouraging horses to move around to eat rather than standing in one spot, that it naturally helps them fight off that extra weight.

Horses who are overweight are more likely to suffer from laminitis, which can be a life threatening condition if not treated effectively and efficiently.

Across both of our sites, we have sand and woodchip pads (small turnout areas) where we can house equines that have laminitis or are being closely monitored by the team. The sand pads are very beneficial for equines suffering with laminitis as the sand cushions their feet. Stef, Farm Manager - Equine Training and Progression, says "The Barlings site was opened to relieve the pressure from our Bransby site after the flooding. Since opening and especially during 2021, the aim for the team was to prepare equines for rehoming and provide space for equines that need rescuing."

13
The number of horses from Barlings that have found their Perfect Partner through our rehoming scheme during 2021 (correct September 2021).

Here you can see a snapshot of the support our External Welfare team have provided during 2021*.

Where and how your donations are used

Your valuable donations are used throughout the whole charity to help support the health and education of all equines, both in our care and within foster homes. Your generosity supports our main objectives, which are to prevent and relieve cruelty to horses, to protect them from unnecessary suffering and to promote knowledge of their care.

Our External Welfare Team, which includes our Field Officers, work hard throughout the year to evaluate welfare concerns and will either support owners who are perhaps, through no fault of their own, struggling with the care of the equine(s), or help make the necessary arrangements to bring the equine(s) in to our care.

Our External Welfare Team often work alongside other equine charities and agencies during large scale multiagency rescues.

Each equine in our care has an individual care programme that is specially developed by our onsite vet and yard teams to make sure that each and every equine can live happy and free of pain.

It costs, on average, £30 per day to care for one equine at Bransby Horses. Horses, ponies, donkeys and mules all have different requirements, including the following examples:

- **Hay and hard feed** – during winter especially, our equines are fed forage (hay and straw) to supplement their grazing.
- **Bedding** – such as wood pellets or shavings, bedding is used in our Riding Barn and on other yards for some equines that have to spend time indoors.
- **Vet fees** – both routine and emergency.
- **Laboratory fees** – such as emergency blood tests to help diagnosis.
- **Farrier and dentist** costs.
- **Medication, vaccinations and vet supplies** – such as bandages, cleaning solutions, needles and syringes.

Here you can see a snapshot of some of the costs you are helping to cover*.

104 Advice calls / emails

44 Equine sector admission requests

136 Welfare calls received

37 Welfare emails received

370 New equines seen

247 Repeat equines seen

£38,909 Hay and Feed

£7,068 Bedding

£23,042 Vet Fees

£37,245 Laboratory Fees

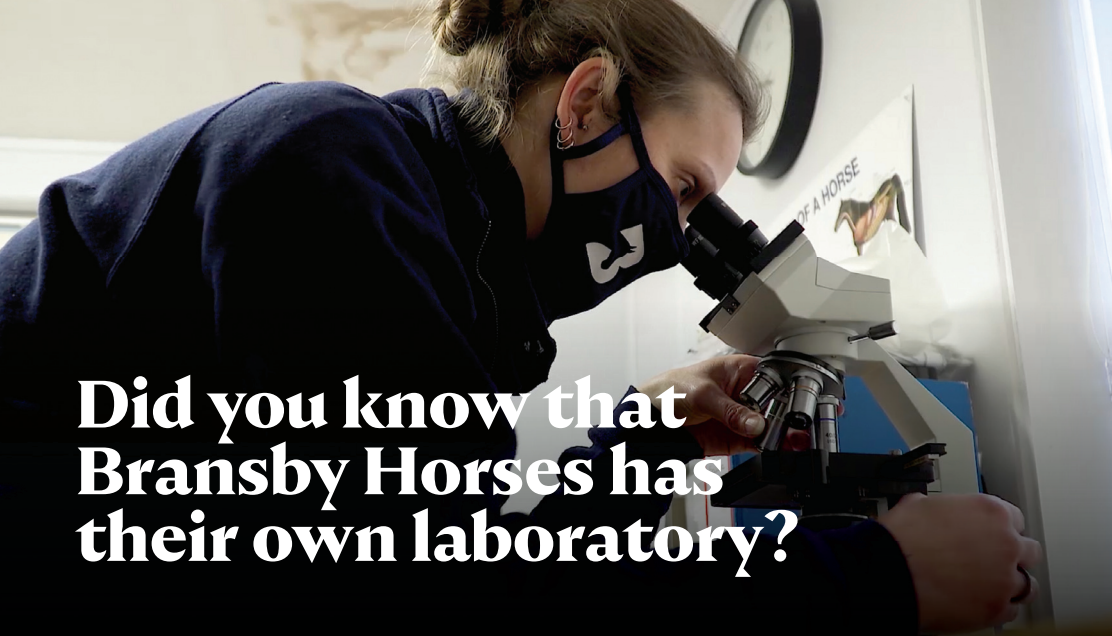
£75,429 Farrier and dentist

£89,936 Medication and vet supplies



* Correct as of October 2021

* Correct as of October 2021



Did you know that Bransby Horses has their own laboratory?

Over the last year, Bransby Horses has been able to slowly develop our onsite veterinary facilities with the installation of in-house laboratory equipment. This means we have a safe place where we can test samples taken from a poorly horse, pony, donkey or mule. Testing these samples helps our onsite vet team to aid diagnosis and treatment, as well as monitor the animal for ongoing improvements or deterioration of a medical condition.

Our onsite veterinary facilities are a fantastic addition to the high quality veterinary care we already provide and is also a more cost-effective process providing rapid results when our vet team need it most. During 2021, on average over 100 samples

of both blood and faeces are being taken every month at each of our sites. Most of these samples are sent away to an external lab; Rainbow Equine Lab, who are generous enough to provide us with an excellent service and lots of support. Bransby Horses use Rainbow's for specialist equipment for tests that we can't run on our in-house machines, including for strangles serology which is a vital part of processing new admissions at our Animal Reception Centre.

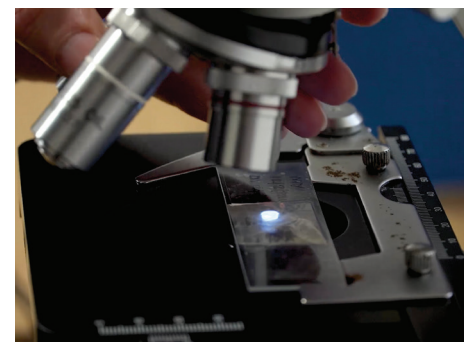
Rachel, Veterinary Practice Manager, says, "The greatest value of the on-site lab is for



poorly ponies – we can take blood and run certain tests immediately and get results very quickly to guide treatment, referral decisions and prognosis. We are still in the first year of the lab being operational so it is very much work in progress and it will evolve over the coming years."

Developing the vet lab would not have been possible without the donations that we receive through our Friends of Bransby Horses membership and other donations. Our incredible veterinary team who work tirelessly to provide first-class treatment to all of our equines. We've come a long way to reach this point, and we cannot continue to improve our facilities without you.

Rachel explains how having the onsite lab helped one of our donkeys, Bluey: "When Bluey had a bout of colic, running a blood sample in-house provided the vet team with



"When Bluey had a bout of colic, running a blood sample in-house provided the vet team with the reassurance to keep treating Bluey with his friends at Bransby Horses."

the reassurance to keep treating Bluey with his friends at Bransby Horses, rather than needing to refer him to a specialist hospital for fluid therapy. By enabling us to monitor sick equines this closely, we can keep them in the environment where they are happiest, which in turn aids a quicker recovery."

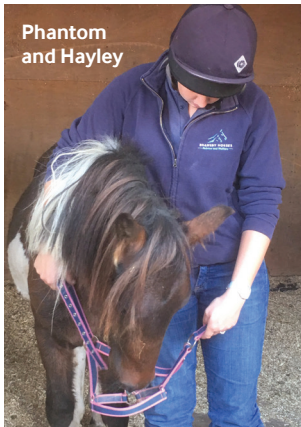


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Say hello to Phantom...



Phantom's story is a special one and we cannot wait to give you exclusive access to his story. We have been documenting Phantom's journey, gathering information from when he very first arrived at our Animal Reception Centre to the present day. You may see a lot more of Phantom's story in the upcoming months but, for now, your exclusive first look is below.



Phantom and Hayley

Phantom came to Bransby Horses with a group of other ponies from our Bodmin Moor rescues in 2016. Members of the welfare team who worked with him when he arrived said he was tiny and had had no previous human interaction. Following on from his stay at the ARC he was moved to our Peter Hunt Yard to begin his handling education – this is where one of our Welfare Assistants, Hayley, started working with him. Hayley said "It became very clear to me very quickly as he leapt up off the ground and kicked out at me, that it was going to be a long old process."

It took a long time, but eventually Hayley was able to stand next to him without him running away in panic, Hayley said, "It didn't take me long to fall in love with this little pony." After a while, Hayley had a breakthrough with Phantom and describes it as "that Oh my God moment" which came many weeks later when he allowed her to touch her hip on his shoulder.

Following on from this, Phantom then started to trust Hayley more and more, as Hayley explains: "Time, patience and deep breaths finally paid off and Phantom soon learned I wasn't that bad and that I gave the best belly scratches of all time."

Phantom's handler, Hayley said, "It didn't take me long to fall in love with this little pony."



Phantom's rescue

It wasn't until the beginning of 2021, that Phantom was ready to move on to his next adventure which was our Riding Barn Yard. Ellis, a Welfare Assistant in the Riding Barn, was given the opportunity to be involved in Phantom's ridden story.

Thankfully Phantom took most of the breaking-in process in his stride. Ellis said, "Phantom's journey took a little pause when it came to putting on his bridle, but I worked out that if I put the bridle on his right ear first and then his left, strangely he was fine!

"He has been a little nervous doing new things, but we figure it out as we go and thankfully he has grown in confidence and he's gone from strength to strength."

By August 2021, Phantom had progressed so well that he was ready to find his forever home as a ridden pony.

We're pleased to say that Phantom has now found a beautiful foster family and will be loved and cherished for the rest of his life.



Ellis and Phantom

Are you searching for that special last minute gift?

Perhaps you're looking for a unique gift for the person who has everything? You can give your loved one a memorable gift this Christmas by purchasing one of our **Gift Cards with a Difference**.

Every purchase of a Gift Card with a Difference provides essential care for all our horses, ponies, donkeys and mules.

With three to choose from (Food, Warmth or Wellbeing), there's one to suit every budget starting from only £10 and you'll receive a card to give to your special someone as a gift.

You can make a *difference* this Christmas.

£10

You have given me the gift of food



£40

You have given me the gift of warmth



£100

You have given me the gift of wellbeing



Purchase a Gift Card with a Difference by completing the form on the back of your cover letter and return it to us in the enclosed free post envelope. Or you can purchase one by calling our friendly team on **01427 788464** or by visiting **BransbyHorses.co.uk/gcwad**